

CHAPTER 3

3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1. Terrestrial Ecology

3.1.1. *Terrestrial Plants*

The identified transmission line routes occur within the Nashville Basin Section of the Interior Low Plateau Physiographic Province (Fenneman, 1938). Botanically, the project occurs in the Nashville Basin Section of the Western Mesophytic Forest Region (Braun, 1950). Native forest communities of the Western Mesophytic Region contain a mixture of tree species in the canopy, including a relatively large number of oak and hickory species. In the Nashville Basin, forests on knobs and low hills are characterized by white and red oaks, tulip tree, sugar maple, sweetgum, black cherry, and hackberry. Forests on lower rocky hills and flat areas are characterized by various oaks and hickories, hackberry, winged elm, honeylocust, and redbud. Red cedar is a significant member of most forests in the Nashville Basin and occasionally occurs in nearly pure stands.

Broadly characterized, the project lands can be described in terms of three vegetation types: early successional, bottomland and riparian forests, and mixed deciduous-cedar forests.

Early successional vegetation includes lands maintained in agriculture or associated with residential or commercial development. The vegetation on these lands has been heavily modified by prior land management activities, to the extent that little native vegetation remains. Representative species in these areas include bidens, goldenrod, ironweed, ragweed, sericea lespedeza, Johnson grass, sunflowers, and various asters. Early successional vegetation characterizes the majority (at least 90 percent) of all routes evaluated.

Bottomland and riparian forests typically contain a canopy and subcanopy of native species such as hackberry, sycamore, red maple, white oak, box elder, and ironwood. Giant cane and Chinese privet often characterize the shrub layer of these areas, and vines such as greenbrier and muscadine are also present. Dominant herbaceous groundcover species include knotweed and Nepal grass.

Mixed deciduous-cedar forests contain a mixture of sugar maple, black cherry, tulip tree, and various oak and hickory species in association with eastern red cedar. Along the proposed routes evaluated for this review, these forests show signs of previous clearing and cattle access. These forests are often rocky, with areas of exposed limestone rock scattered throughout the understory. However, cedar glades, areas of extremely shallow soils over exposed limestone bedrock, were not observed along the proposed project route.

3.1.2. *Invasive Plant Species*

Over 90 percent of the lands along the surveyed routes associated with this project have been subjected to some level of disturbance from agricultural or residential development. As a result, several invasive plant species are present including common periwinkle,

Johnson grass, lespedeza, Chinese privet, Nepal grass, Japanese honeysuckle, and multiflora rose.

3.1.3. Terrestrial Animals

Terrestrial wildlife species found in the project area are generally common and have widespread distributions. No uncommon wildlife communities were observed within the project area during field investigations. Many habitats that occur along the proposed transmission line routes have been previously disturbed and provide limited wildlife habitat, particularly areas that have been impacted by agricultural activities and development. A few woodland habitats exist primarily in areas near stream and river crossings. Wildlife in the project area includes species commonly found in early successional habitats, riparian forests, and mixed deciduous-cedar habitats.

Common amphibians and reptiles found in early successional habitats include American toad, upland chorus frog, and black racer. Birds found in this habitat type include eastern meadowlark, common yellowthroat, field sparrow, and eastern bluebird. Resident mammals include striped skunk, woodchuck, eastern cottontail rabbit, and coyote.

Riparian forests can provide breeding habitats for toads, frogs, and salamanders and a variety of other animal life such as turtles, snakes, and mammals often occur in this habitat type. Amphibians and reptiles found in riparian forests include bullfrog, southern two-lined salamander, common snapping turtle, spring peeper, and northern water snake. Birds that nest here include wood duck, belted kingfisher, Carolina wren, and eastern phoebe. Mammals found here include muskrat, mink, beaver, and raccoon.

Amphibians and reptiles found in mixed deciduous-cedar habitats include Fowler's toad, eastern box turtle, and gray rat snake. Birds commonly found in this type of habitat include red-eyed vireo, downy woodpecker, northern cardinal, and Carolina chickadee. Mammals common to the area include eastern gray squirrel, southern flying squirrel, eastern chipmunk, and white-tailed deer.

Migratory birds that occur in the vicinity likely include herons, hawks, warblers, tanagers, sparrows, and blackbirds. No uncommon assemblages of migratory birds were observed or are expected to occur within the proposed project area.

Invasive terrestrial animals that were observed or are expected to occur in the project vicinity include European starling, house sparrow, and rock dove. None of these species were observed or are expected to occur in unusually high numbers within the project area. Invasive bird species were observed primarily in urban habitats.

3.2. Threatened and Endangered Terrestrial Species

3.2.1. Plants

The TVA Natural Heritage database revealed that one Federally listed and four Tennessee state-listed plant species have been reported from within 5 miles of the proposed transmission line route (Table 3-1). Further review of the TVA Heritage database revealed that two additional Federally listed plant species have been reported from outside of this review radius within Williamson County, Tennessee (Table 3-1). Suitable habitats for the Federally listed plant species are discussed below.

Table 3-1. Federally and State-Listed Plant Species Reported From Within 5 Miles of the Proposed Transmission Line Route, and Additional Federally Listed Plant Species Reported From Outside of This Review Radius Within Williamson County, Tennessee

Common name	Scientific name	Federal status	State status
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>		THR
Duck river bladderpod	<i>Lesquerella densipila</i>		THR
Eggert's sunflower	<i>Helianthus eggertii</i>	THR	THR
Perideridia*	<i>Perideridia americana</i>		END
Prairie clover*	<i>Dalea foliosa</i>	END	END
Price's potato-bean	<i>Apios priceana</i>	THR	END
Sandwort	<i>Arenaria fontinalis</i>		THR

Status abbreviations: END = endangered; THR = threatened

* This species does not have a unique common name; the name listed is regularly applied to more than one member of this genus.

Eggert's sunflower occurs in a variety of habitats ranging from rocky, open, oak-hickory woodlands to barrens and roadsides.

Prairie clover is typically restricted to wet calcareous barrens, moist prairies, or cedar glades. Within the Tennessee River Valley, this species is usually found near a stream or area where seepage from limestone provides seasonal moisture.

Price's potato-bean occurs in open, rocky, wooded slopes and floodplain edges. Sites are usually under mixed hardwoods or in associated clearings where ravine slopes meet alluvial systems.

The species listed in Table 3-1 formed the basis for field surveys conducted during August and September 2001. No occurrences of these or other rare plant species were observed on or immediately adjacent to the proposed transmission line route during these surveys.

3.2.2. Terrestrial Animals

TVA biologists conducted field investigations to determine the potential occurrence of protected terrestrial animals and their habitats in the vicinity of the project area. The TVA Natural Heritage Project database indicated that no Federally listed terrestrial animals have been reported from Williamson County, Tennessee. Sharp-shinned hawks (*Accipiter striatus*) and cerulean warblers (*Dendroica cerulea*), both listed as in need of management in Tennessee, have been reported from the vicinity.

Sharp-shinned hawks nest in both coniferous and pine-oak woodlands. Mixed deciduous forest and edge habitats within the project area provide suitable habitat for this species.

Cerulean warblers nest in large tracts of mature, moist, deciduous forests. These areas are often on hilly, steep slopes and are characterized by a sparse understory. Due to the absence of large tracts of mature forests and because forest habitats in the project area are highly fragmented, cerulean warblers are not expected to occur there.

Southeastern shrews (*Sorex longirostris*), listed as in need of management in Tennessee, may find suitable habitat in moist woodlands along the Harpeth and West Harpeth Rivers.

Southeastern shrews prefer moist woodlands with decaying logs or leaf litter, but are also found in more open habitats near water resources.

No other Federally or state-listed species or their habitats are expected to occur within the proposed project area.

3.2.3. Aquatic Animals

The TVA Natural Heritage database indicated that the tan riffleshell (*Epioblasma florentina walkeri*), Federally listed as endangered and three fish species considered in need of management by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA)—Tippecanoe darter (*Etheostoma tippecanoe*), smallscale darter (*Etheostoma microlepidum*), and slenderhead darter (*Percina phoxocephala*)—have been reported from the Harpeth River system in Williamson and Cheatham Counties, Tennessee. The tan riffleshell has not been recently collected from the Harpeth River, and is assumed to be extirpated from this portion of its range. The Harpeth River system has been impacted by extensive urbanization, streambed destabilization, and pollution from industry and farming. A fish and mussel kill occurred below the sewage treatment plant at Franklin, Tennessee, in 2000 and remaining mussel species in the portion of the river are common, tolerant species (Ahlstedt, 2002). The three fish species are all known from relatively recent records in the vicinity of and downstream of the project area and may occur in the project area. No other listed aquatic species are known from the Harpeth River watershed in the vicinity of this proposed transmission line.

3.3. Wetlands

Field surveys to determine the presence of wetlands in or adjacent to the original route as well as Alternative Route Segments A, B, and C were conducted during July and August of 2001. No areas meeting established criteria for wetlands (e.g., Environmental Laboratory 1987, Cowardin, et al., 1979) were identified.

3.4. Aquatic Ecology

The proposed 161-kV transmission line is within the Nashville Basin. It has a relatively flat to gently rolling topography and is now largely devoted to grasslands and agriculture. Streams are characterized by low to moderate gradient and are virtually paved in some areas with expanses of limestone bedrock interspersed with rock rubble riffle areas, silty basins, and some sand and gravel reaches. The limestones freely leach nutrients and, consequently, waters are very productive, and algae and rooted vegetation are abundant in streams. Some of these streams sustain tremendous densities of fishes (Etnier and Starnes, 1993). Land use in the vicinity of the proposed right-of-way is primarily agricultural and residential.

The reviewed transmission line routes would cross Spencer Creek, Harpeth River, and the West Fork Harpeth River, all within the Harpeth River watershed, which drains into the Cumberland River. All three streams crossed by the proposed right-of-way are on Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) 303(d) list of water quality-limited streams (see Surface Water Section).

Etnier and Starnes (1993) identified 62 fish species from the Harpeth River system (Appendix VIII). One additional invasive species (common carp) was seen by TVA biologists during site visits. Sampling conducted by TWRA in 1997 collected 27 fish

species at two sites in the Harpeth River. Sampling locations were the Franklin Parks and Recreation Area at river mile 85.0 and at Lampkin Bridge Road at river mile 102.3 (TWRA, 1998). TWRA sampled other sites in the lower Harpeth, but information from these two sites is probably more representative of the fish community in the vicinity of the proposed right-of-way. TWRA again sampled the Harpeth River in 1999, but the upper two sites were inaccessible because of low water conditions. At the sites that could be sampled, sport fish catch rates were again low, but those collected appeared robust and healthy (TWRA, 2000). Although not all species known from the Harpeth River drainage would be expected to be present at all sites on the river, most species could be expected to inhabit areas of suitable habitat in the streams within the proposed right-of-way.

The Nashville District, USACE collected benthic samples during monitoring from 1997-2000 at two sites (mile 1.0 and mile 16.5). The sampling location at mile 1.0 is not comparable to physical conditions near the proposed right-of-way because of impoundment by Cheatham Reservoir. The site at mile 16.5, although far downstream from the proposed right-of-way, is characterized by wadeable, flowing water conditions. The benthic community at mile 16.5 was indicative of “good” water quality conditions in 1997 and 2000 samples and “very good” conditions in 1998. This location was not sampled in 1999. The diverse benthic assemblage has included high numbers of individuals and many species that are sensitive to less desirable environmental conditions (Pennington and Associates, 1997-2000). In 1992, the USACE identified a benthic community at river mile 85 near Franklin, characterized by common occurrence of sensitive taxa and “moderate” levels of species diversity and abundance. Results from two sampling locations downstream of Franklin indicated that recovery from nutrient enrichment was evident in benthic communities below the Franklin site (USACE, unpublished data).

In August 2000, the USEPA sampled benthic macroinvertebrates at three locations on the Harpeth River. These sites were located (1) above Franklin wastewater treatment facility, (2) approximately 100 meters downstream of the facility, and (3) approximately 500 meters downstream of the facility. The benthic assemblage at all three sampling locations rated only “slightly impaired” compared to expected conditions in an urban stream of that area. This was based on taxa diversity, taxa abundance, and the presence of Ephemeroptera (mayflies), Plecoptera (stoneflies) and Trichoptera (caddisflies), which are species generally considered to be pollution sensitive (USEPA, 2002).

Alternative Route Segment A would lie to the east and south of the Baugh Bend reach of the Harpeth River, passing very close to the river at the south end of Baugh Bend, then to the west on the north side of Del Rio Pike. Alternative Route Segment A would then continue either west, connecting with Alternative Route Segment C, or north before rejoining Alternative Route Segment B. Alternative Route Segment A would cross one wet weather conveyance and an unnamed, intermittent tributary eliminating two of the base route crossings of the Harpeth River in Baugh Bend.

The preferred alternative (the base route plus Alternative Route Segment B) originates at the Aspen Grove Substation and continues west crossing first Spencer Creek, followed by an intermittent stream, three crossings of the Harpeth River, a wet weather conveyance, a perennial stream, four crossings of the West Harpeth River, a wet weather conveyance, and finally crossing the West Harpeth River again before terminating at the new Aspen Grove Substation. This route would also closely follow two reaches of the West Harpeth River.

From the point where Alternative Route Segment C originates from segment A, it crosses a perennial stream, three intermittent streams, and a wet weather conveyance before rejoining the preferred route.

3.5. Managed Areas

The TVA Natural Heritage database indicated that the proposed transmission line route segments would not be located within or immediately adjacent to any Managed Areas or Ecologically Significant Sites.

The preferred transmission line would cross the Harpeth River three times. Portions of the Harpeth River downstream of the project area are designated as a Class II (Pastoral) or Class III (Partially Developed) State Scenic River segments. Legislation originally included the entire Harpeth River, but an amendment in 1972 removed the segment in Williamson County from designation. The State Scenic Rivers Program is administered by the TDEC, Division of Natural Heritage. Although the Harpeth River Watershed Association is actively working to acquire designation for additional parts of the river, TDEC currently does not have any plans to include the Williamson County reach near the proposed transmission line crossings.

Two Managed Areas and/or Ecologically Significant Sites would be located within 3 miles of the proposed transmission line. Spencer Creek Seep Protection Planning Site is located 1.4 miles north of the preferred route and the other alternative route segments. This site consists of 10 acres on a small, wooded hill alongside Hillsboro Road in Williamson County. The area provides habitat for a population of sandwort (*Arenaria fontinalis*), a state-listed threatened plant species. This species is usually found in seeps or limestone creek beds. This population seems to be supported by a low wet spot which may be the result of a small quarrying effort. Protection Planning Sites are compiled by the Tennessee Protection Planning Committee, a cooperative effort of Federal, state, and private land managers and individuals knowledgeable about the biota of the state.

The Natchez Trace Parkway is located 1.5 miles northwest of the Bingham Substation site. This national park features a two-lane highway which follows a historic route from Nashville, Tennessee, to Natchez, Mississippi. The parklands preserve important examples of natural and cultural heritage. The National Park Service strives to provide quality recreational and educational experiences for visitors through various outdoor activities and interpretive programs organized along the parkway.

3.6. Recreation

From an area just west of Aspen Grove Substation to the western terminus of Mack Hatcher Parkway, numerous existing recreation facilities occur along the north side of Mack Hatcher Parkway. These facilities include Legends Golf Club, The Fairways Golf Course, formal recreation facilities affiliated with Battle Ground Academy, and tennis, soccer, picnicking, walking, and other facilities associated with Judge Fulton Green Park and Recreation Complex. There is an existing transmission line along the north side of Mack Hatcher Parkway and just south of each of these facilities. West of Mack Hatcher Parkway along the preferred transmission line route to Bingham Substation, including Alternative Corridors Segments A, B, and C, there are no developed public recreation facilities. Information provided by Williamson County Parks and Recreation indicated there are no

plans for development of public recreation facilities along the proposed transmission line corridor. Some informal recreation occurs in the project area, including a small amount of recreational boating, primarily canoes, on the Harpeth and West Harpeth Rivers. In addition, some low density, dispersed outdoor recreation such as hunting probably occurs in the project area.

3.7. Floodplains

The proposed transmission line rights-of-way for Alternative Route Segments A, B, and C cross the identified floodplains of the Harpeth River, West Harpeth River, and Spencer Creek, along with other minor floodplain areas in Williamson County and Franklin. The Bingham Substation planned by MTEMC would not be located within the 100-year floodplain. A portion of the existing Aspen Grove Substation is located within the 100-year floodplain and floodway of Spencer Creek. The 100-year flood elevation at this location (Spencer Creek mile 1.75) would be 650.0 feet above mean sea level.

3.8. Groundwater

The proposed project area is underlain by aquifers in the Appalachian Plateaus and Interior Low Plateaus Physiographic Provinces and consists of permeable stratigraphic units within flat-lying, sedimentary rocks of Paleozoic age. Both the Appalachian Plateaus and Interior Low Plateaus are extensive tablelands; underlying rocks are either flat or dip at angles of only a few degrees. The Appalachian Plateaus are flat areas of undissected plateau that lie at high altitudes and are capped by resistant sandstone. These high areas resemble large mesas and are bounded by steep-faced slopes. In the Interior Low Plateaus Province, erosion has removed part or all of the resistant sandstone cap exposing underlying limestone at the surface (Lloyd and Lyke, 1995).

The major aquifers in both physiographic provinces are in limestone units of Mississippian age that are exposed in wide valley floors in the Interior Low Plateaus Province and are covered in the Appalachian Plateau areas by clastic rocks of Pennsylvanian age.

Most of the Appalachian Plateaus aquifers are limestone units, which are productive aquifers because of the solution openings that develop in the soluble carbonate rocks. The quality of these aquifers is variable, but most of the water is suitable for most uses; concentrations of sulfate and iron, however, are objectionable in places. Although the project area is underlain by soluble carbonate rock, there is no evidence of sinkholes in the path of any of the three alternative corridors.

3.9. Surface Water

The proposed project drains to the Harpeth River and its tributaries, including the West Fork Harpeth River and Spencer Creek, in the Cumberland River Basin. Precipitation in the area averages about 47 inches per year with the wettest month in March at 4.8 inches and the driest month in October at 2.6 inches. Streamflow runoff varies with rainfall and averages 21 inches per year. The average annual stream flow runoff is about 1.5 cubic feet per second per square mile of drainage area. Mean annual air temperature is about 59 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Harpeth River in Davidson County (about 20 miles downstream of the project) is designated a State Scenic River because of its outstanding scenic and recreational value. It is threatened by development in Franklin and Bellevue. However, the segment of the river within Williamson County is not designated as a Scenic River. The Harpeth River from mile 68.3 to 79.0 (downstream of the project area) and the West Fork Harpeth River are classified by the state (TDEC) for domestic and industrial water supply, fish and aquatic life, recreation, irrigation, and livestock watering and wildlife. The Harpeth River from mile 82.0 to 85.2 and Spencer Creek are classified for fish and aquatic life, recreation, irrigation, and livestock watering and wildlife. A portion of the West Fork Harpeth River is on the state 303(d) list as only partially supporting its designated uses due to siltation, habitat alteration, and organic enrichment/dissolved oxygen from riparian loss and pastureland. The Harpeth River from the West Fork Harpeth to the headwaters is listed as partially supporting designated uses due to organic enrichment/dissolved oxygen, habitat alteration, siltation, and metals (arsenic, lead, zinc, antimony) from agriculture, contaminated sediments, urban runoff/storm sewers, major municipal point sources, and industrial point sources (TDEC, 1998).

3.10. Visual

The proposed transmission line route segments would pass through a variety of north-central Tennessee countryside from the existing Aspen Grove Substation to MTEMC's new Bingham Substation near Leipers Fork. The existing landscape character ranges from urban development closest to the Aspen Grove Substation, to rolling pastoral near Leipers Fork. Scenic attractiveness and scenic integrity are moderate.

Alternative Route Segment A would follow the east side of the Harpeth River approximately one-half mile before turning to the west at Baugh Bend and connecting to the proposed Alternative Route Segment C. The route would pass west of Rebel Meadows Subdivision and north of Del Rio Pike. The remainder of the route would terminate along Del Rio Pike which is lightly traveled by automobile and has few homes near the proposed route. There are many wood and steel utility poles within the existing right-of-way in the area.

The preferred route would begin at the Aspen Grove Substation and follow west along the north side of Mack Hatcher Parkway, a heavily traveled thoroughfare. Mack Hatcher Parkway is currently a two-lane road scheduled to be upgraded to four-lane in the future due to high traffic volumes. Steel and wooden poles occupy the northern portion of the right-of-way near the substation.

The preferred route would cross U.S. Highway 431 and continue west near Rebel Meadows Subdivision before crossing the Harpeth River three times. Farther to the west, the proposed route traverses low, flat-lying areas with extensive cultivated lands and open pastureland. Five minor crossings of the West Harpeth River would be required prior to reaching the new Bingham Substation near Leipers Fork. There are several existing laced steel transmission structures near these crossings. After the last crossing, the route would terminate at MTEMC's new Aspen Grove Substation.

Alternative Route Segment C would connect approximately 0.25 mile west of the Harpeth River. Traveling south for approximately 0.25 mile, this route would pass across open countryside over a variety of topographic changes ranging from relatively flat to mildly sloping. The route turns west and parallels Del Rio Pike for 1.5 miles before turning south toward State Highway 96. Barns, a few residences, and Glass Cemetery are in this area.

Turning west at Glass Spring near White Cemetery, Alternative Route Segment C would parallel Boyd Mill Pike for 1.25 miles, terminating on the south bank of West Harpeth River and connect to the preferred route.

3.11. Cultural Resources

3.11.1. Archeological and Historic Sites

The Central Basin of Tennessee has been an area of human occupation for the last 12,000 years. In this area, prehistoric chronology is generally broken into five broad time periods: Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Gulf Formational, Woodland, and Mississippian (Walthall, 1980; McNutt and Weaver, 1985). Prehistoric land use and settlement patterns vary during each period, but short- and long-term habitation sites are generally located on flood plains and alluvial terraces along rivers and tributaries. Specialized campsites tend to be located on older alluvial terraces and in the uplands. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the Shawnee were known to have settlements in the area, but they were repeatedly forced out by the Creeks and Cherokee who claimed Middle Tennessee as hunting territory. The first permanent occupation of the area by Europeans, Euro-Americans, and African-Americans occurred in the 18th century. Williamson County was formally created in 1799. The county's economy relied upon the success of its agricultural industry that was built solidly upon the production of food crops such as grains and meat rather than the more lucrative cotton and tobacco. The economy remained largely agriculturally based through the 1960s when residential and commercial development associated with the growth of Nashville began moving into the area (Ezell, 2001).

Currently there are 130 properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in Williamson County. Eleven of these properties are within the project's visual Area of Potential Effects (APE).

A Phase I archaeological survey was conducted in August and September of 2001 of the proposed route and the alternative corridors. The survey revisited six sites: 40WM16, 40WM96, 40WM268, 40WM270, 40WM271, and 40WM294. All of these previously recorded sites were relocated with the exception of 40WM16. It was determined that this site had been destroyed during the construction of Mack Hatcher Parkway and an adjacent sports complex. The survey also identified six newly recorded sites: 40WM298, 40WM299, 40WM300, 40WM301, 40WM302, and 40WM309. Additionally, geomorphologic testing was conducted by a geoarchaeologist to identify locations within the APE with the potential for deeply buried archaeological deposits. Several areas were identified within the geomorphologic testing that exhibited either a high or a very high potential for deeply buried deposits. Any locations within the proposed project area designated with this potential would be subject to further testing should pole or structure locations fall within those areas if the decision is made to proceed with this proposal.

Sites 40WM96, 40WM270, 40WM271, 40WM294, 40WM299, 40WM302, 40WM309 are all prehistoric sites located within the preferred route. Only one site, 40WM271 is recommended potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP. Several areas within this route were identified as having a high to very high potential for buried archaeological deposits.

No sites were identified within Alternative Route Segment A. However, there were segments of this route identified as having a very high potential for buried archaeological deposits.

Sites 40WM268, 40WM298, 40WM300, 40WM301 are located within Alternative Route Segment C. None of these archaeological sites were recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP. This alternative also had segments identified as having a very high potential for buried archaeological deposits.

3.11.2. Historic Structures

The project area is rich in historic architectural and agricultural resources. A historic survey of the proposed right-of-way areas and visual APE identified 29 individual properties and one historic district that are located within the viewshed of the main corridor or any of the alternative route segments (Karpynek, 2003). Appendix IX lists each property, its NRHP status, and potential effects from the project.

The eleven properties listed in bold type in Appendix IX are considered contributing resources to the Harpeth River Historic District (HRHD). This district encompasses approximately 2,495 acres and was identified in a study conducted by Thomason and Associates (2002) for TDOT's proposed Mack Hatcher Parkway. The Tennessee SHPO concurred with TDOT's recommendation of the district's eligibility on January 8, 2003. The HRHD is recommended eligible under NRHP Criterion A for its agricultural significance to the region and Criterion C for the concentration of historic structures in the area. The following are some of the characteristics of the district that qualify it for listing:

- The historic prosperity of farming in the area is still represented in the 2,000 acres of the district that remain in cultivation or woodlands
- The presence of numerous pre-1955 agricultural structures important to the area's agricultural heritage
- A collection of preserved historic structures including six dwellings that pre-date the Civil War



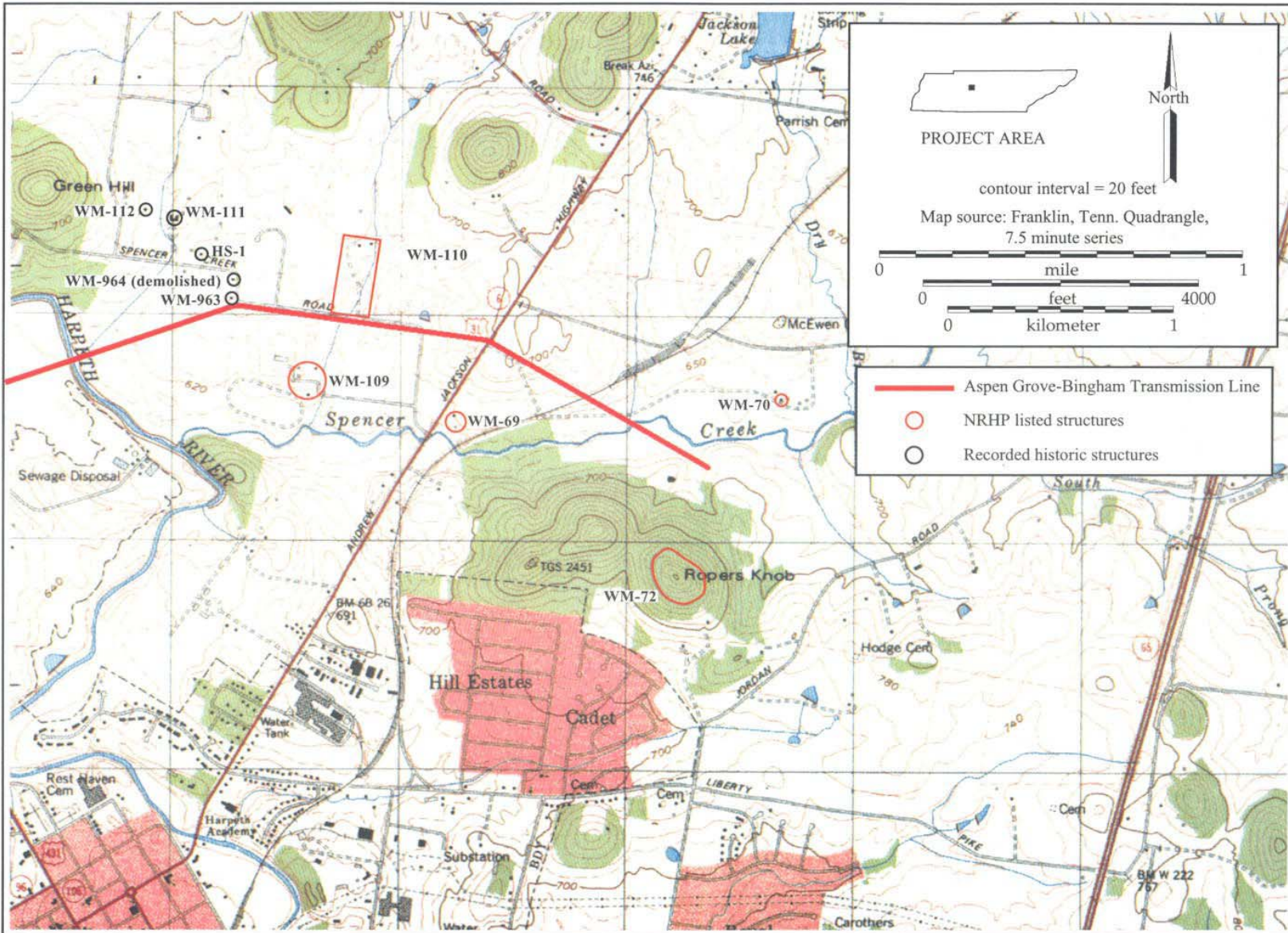


Figure 3-1B. Map of the Western Portion of the Project Area Outlining the Harpeth River Historic District and Other Identified Historic Resources (Part 2)